

What is claimed:

1. A method of replicating data items from a host system to a mobile data communication device comprising the steps of:

5 detecting an event trigger at the host system;
 in response to detecting the event trigger, continuously redirecting the data items from the host system to the mobile data communication device;
 characterizing the data items;
 configuring one or more notification types at the mobile data communication device,
10 wherein the one or more notification types correspond to the characterization of the data items;
 receiving redirected data items at the mobile data communication device;
 determining the characterization of the data items; and
 notifying the user of the received data items according to the notification type
 corresponding to the determined characterization of the data items.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing step takes place at the host system.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing step takes place at the mobile data communication device.

20 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing step takes place at the host system and at the mobile data communication device.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing step further comprises the step of:
characterizing the data items based on the type of data item.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the type of data item is selected from the group consisting of
E-mail messages, calendar events and instant notifications.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing step further comprises the step of:
characterizing the data items based on priority.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the priority of each data item is selected from the group
consisting of regular, very high and emergency.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing step further comprises the steps of:
characterizing the data items based on the type of data item and based on priority.

10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:
embedding characterizing information into a header associated with the data items.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein the priority of the data items is associated with the sender of
the data item.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein the priority of the data items is associated with a receiver of
the data item.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein the priority of the data items is associated with the subject of the data item.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein the notification types include an audible notification.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein the notification types include a visual notification.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein the notification types include a vibrating notification.

17. The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of selecting an audible notification from a plurality of stored audible notifications based on the characterization of the data item.

18. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of selecting a vibrating notification from a plurality of vibrating notification patterns stored at the mobile data communication device based on the characterization of the data item.

19. The method of claim 5, wherein the data item type is an E-mail data item.

20. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of characterizing the data item as an inbound or outbound E-mail.

21. A method of responding to a received message at a mobile data communication device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message at the mobile data communication device;

determining a characterization of the received message;

5 if the received message is characterized as a priority message, then: (a) notifying the user of the mobile data communication device that a priority message has been received; (b) displaying the priority message on the mobile data communication device; and (c) when the user interacts with the displayed priority message, automatically generating a reply message to transmit in response to the priority message.

22. A method of viewing an attachment sent to a mobile data communication device, comprising the steps of:

receiving a message having an attachment at the mobile data communication device, wherein the mobile device is not capable of viewing the attachment;

15 notifying the user of the mobile data communication device that a message has been received;

transmitting an attachment agent from the mobile data communication device to a communications network associated with the message, wherein the attachment agent locates a network device that is capable of displaying the attachment;

20 returning the address of the network device to the mobile data communication device;

and

prompting the user of the mobile data communication device to transmit the attachment to the network device.